

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

**-- FIELD OF THE INVENTION --****[DESCRIPTION]****[Field of the Invention]**

The present invention [generally] relates generally to oral hygiene and, more particularly, to devices and accessories for [oral] dental care or the like [, and more particularly to an adjustably tiltable interdental toothbrush].

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

**-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --****[Background of the invention]**

Some [T]oothbrushes [of the type mentioned above are known already. Substantially these] comprise substantially an elongated handle and a wire brush, made of a generally metallic wire and a plurality of radial bristles, extending axially from one end of the handle. The [wire] brush [can be] is mounted [on] to the handle so as to be replaceable[, or]. Alternatively, the whole toothbrush may be of a disposable type. Also known in the art are tooth-brushes of [the above-mentioned type] this sort in which the [wire] brush [can] may be tilted at an angle [with respect] relative to the axis of the

handle such that the toothbrush [may also be] is readily insert[ed]able into [the] hard[est] to reach spaces between [the] a user's teeth. [According to U.S. Pat. No. 4691404 the possibility of t]It is known that tilting or flexing the wire brush [with respect] relative to the handle is [obtained] possible if [the] that portion of the handle [that] to which the [wire] brush is joined [to] is [manufactured in] made of a relatively flexible material. A toothbrush of this general description is shown, for instance, in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,691,404 and 5,488,751. In this [way] manner, [by] using two fingers to apply suitabl[y]e pressure [acting on that portion] to the handle [with two fingers], the desired tilt may be conferred on the [wire] brush. [This solution,] Although widely used, this solution [has the drawback of] unfortuately also reduc[ing]es the effective length of the toothbrush[, that has] to be [gripped with] grasped by the user's fingers [in] correspond[ence with]ing to the proximal end of the handle. [A similar solution is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5488751.]

Please amend from after paragraph 3 on page 1 to before the first full paragraph on page 2 to read as follows:

Another solution that [enables tilting of] allows the wire brush to be tilted [with respect] relative to the handle [is described in the U.S. Patents Nos. 5309596 and 5377377. In the toothbrush described in these two patents the] involves a wire brush [is] engaged in a seat from which two axial arms extend, and flexibly attached to a handle made of two parts [that]. The two handle parts are attached to one another in such a way

as to be [able to] slid[e]able in the axial direction. [The] Such attachment between [the two] axial arms and the seat of the [wire] brush on [the] one hand, and [between] the two [parts of the] handle parts, on the other hand, is generally flexible, so that when one part of the handle [is made] slides relative [with respect] to the other, the [wire] brush tilts with respect to the handle. The greater the amount of sliding of the two handle portions [of the handle], the greater [is] the degree of tilt. Exemplary arrangements of this general description of provided, for instance, in U.S. Patents Nos. 5,309,596 and 5,377,377.

Please amend page 2, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

[In these] Although the foregoing solutions are useful, it [may be] has been found not only difficult to maintain the desired angle of tilt [and], [at any rate, it is] but also impossible to [keep it] retain the brush at th[e]at angle [value]. [Besides] Moreover, in the travel or disposable type toothbrush models, where [it is] the user [who has to put] must position the [wire] brush in[to] the seat [made] in the handle, it [is] has been found impossible to ensure a perfectly tight[ness of the] connection [and]. As a result, the [wire] brush [may be] is unstable and may even become [unat]detached from the handle [when] in use.

Please amend page 2, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

**-- OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

[Objects and summary of the invention]

[The] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention [is] to provide an interdental toothbrush that enables [tilting of] the wire brush to be adjustably tilted with respect to the [axis of the] brush handle axis [to be adjusted in a], simpl[e]y and safely [way], and without the [drawbacks] disadvantages of [the known] prior interdental toothbrushes.

Please amend page 2, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide an interdental toothbrush [of the type mentioned above in which the] having a wire brush that is readily and easily replaceable [easily] and maintains its position [stably] in a stable fashion during use.

Please amend from after the third full paragraph on page 2 to before the first full paragraph on page 3 to read as follows:

These and other objects and advantages are accomplished [with the] using an interdental toothbrush, according to the present invention, in which the wire brush is integral with a support member rotatably joined [rotatingly] to the handle, so that tilting of the wire brush [from] relative to the axis of the handle can be adjusted and [means are] a lock is provided for [locking] securing the support at [the desired] a selected angle with respect to the handle.

Please amend page 3, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

**-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --**

[Brief description of the drawings]

[The invention will be illustrated in greater detail in the description that follows of one embodiment, provided as a non-limiting example,] A specific, illustrative toothbrush, in accordance with the present invention, is described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Please amend page 3, second full paragraph, as follows:

[ - Figure] FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of [the] an interdental toothbrush, according to one aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 3, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

[ - Figure] FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the interdental toothbrush of [figure] FIG. 1, rotated through 90°;

Please amend page 3, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

[ - Figure] FIG. 3 is an enlarged [partial] sectional view of the toothbrush [according to the invention in correspondence with the] joint[, showing a cross section] taken [according to the arrows] along line III-III of [figure] FIG. 1;

Please amend page 3, fifth full paragraph, to read as follows:

[ - Figures] FIG. 4 [and 5 show, in plan view and] is a side elevational view[,] of a handle for [the] a toothbrush, according to one aspect of the present invention; and

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FIG. 5 is a side elevational view of the toothbrush handle shown in FIG. 4.

Please add the following new paragraph after the fifth full paragraph on page 3:

-- The same numerals are used throughout the drawing figures to designate similar elements. Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. --

Please amend from after the fifth full paragraph on page 3 to before the first full paragraph on page 4, to read as follows:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

[Detailed description of the invention]

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1-5, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative adjustably tiltable interdental toothbrush, in accor-

dance with the present invention. [With reference to the abovementioned figures] According to one embodiment, illustrated generally in FIG. 1, the interdental toothbrush [according to the present invention] comprises a handle 1 culminating in a pair of generally ring-shaped, parallel expansions 2 and 3. [The c]Circular seats 5 formed on the [two] expansions [2 and 3] are relatively coaxial thereto. The toothbrush, according to this [invention] embodiment, also comprises a stem 6, in particular, having a truncated-conical shape [in this embodiment of the invention], and having at [its] an end of generally larger cross-section a transvers[al]e pin 7 suitable for engag[ing in the]ement with seats 5 of [the] expansions 2 and 3. Extending axially from [the] a generally lower cross-section end of the stem [6] is a [conventionally shaped] wire brush 8, e.g., of a conventional shape, and formed of a rod 9 from which a plurality of radial bristles 10 extend.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 4 on page 5:

- - - Various modifications and alterations to the present invention may be appreciated based on a review of this disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims. - -

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend page 8, paragraph 1, to read as follows: